

Defense Related Vision Research

NAEVR Meets with VSOs to Ensure Support for FY2012 PRMR-Vision Funding

As in past years, the Veterans Service Organizations' (VSO) FY2012 *Independent Budget* has called for increased funding for medical research at the VA, including that into TBI-related visual dysfunction and vision implants, as well as increased funding for blind rehabilitation. It also recommends sufficient funding for

the PRMR-Vision research program to address combat-related eye injuries.

"Thanks to NAEVR member Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), we have maintained constant contact with the VSOs and Military Service Organizations (MSOs), including a February 18

meeting hosted by the VCE, AAO, and AOA, as well as at a March 2 meeting held in the U.S. Capitol hosted by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and 15 Ranking/senior Democrats on key House committees," said NAEVR's James Jorkasky.

February 18 VSO Meeting



Colonel Donald Gagliano hosts VSO attendees



VCE's Dr. Mary Lawrence, BVA's Tom Miller and Dr. Tom Zampieri, Colonel Gagliano and AAO's Rebecca Hyder



Rich Cardillo, the Military Sports Program Coordinator at the US Association of Blind Athletes, discussed his program and how it is bringing hope to sight-impaired veterans. He can be contacted through military@usaba.org

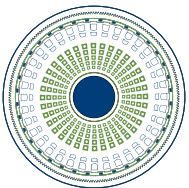
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March 2 Capitol Hill Meeting

Center: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) hosted the annual meeting with VSOs and MSOs to address active military and veterans issues, including unemployment, mental health, and oversight of the VA budget. Cong. Tim Walz (D-MN, picture left), a House Veterans Affairs Committee member and highest ranking enlisted soldier ever to serve in Congress, sponsored a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of PRMR-Vision funding in FY2011 appropriations



Attendees included 15 Democratic House Members with Ranking and senior status on committees of jurisdiction, including Armed Forces, Budget, Homeland Security/Intelligence and Veterans Affairs.

DOD Announces \$13 Million in FY2010 DMRDP Awards to Vision Researchers

The DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) has announced awards to researchers who submitted grants in the FY 2010 Defense Medical Research and Development Program (DMRDP), and nine vision researchers received a total of \$13 million in awards to date, including three Basic Science Awards and six Applied Research and Advanced Technology Awards. Among the eye and vision projects selected for funding were projects dealing with corneal healing after exposure to explosive devices, development of assistive devices for veterans with TBI, and restoring vision after optic nerve injury.

Congress funded the DMRDP at a level of \$372M in FY2010, and has announced 117 awards to date. This program is separate from DOD's PRMR-Vision program, which funded 12 researchers for a total of \$11 million in the FY2009/2010 cycle, which addresses eight gaps in vision research, as identified by DOD.

Contact NAEVR's David Epstein to be added to an email "DOD Interest List" to be notified of all DOD-related research announcements.

Visit the Defense-related Vision Research section of NAEVR's Web site for more details